



# CITY OF TUCSON



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## NEWS RELEASE

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**Date:** 1/12/2012  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION WITH ARREST 1800 BLOCK OF SOUTH KITT PLACE

At approximately 8:45 a.m. on January 12, 2012, the Tucson Fire Department requested assistance from the Tucson Police Department in the 1800 block of South Kitt Place. Officers from Operations Division Midtown responded to the location and determined that Tucson Fire Department personnel had been summoned to the residence after receiving a 911 call regarding child experiencing seizure-like activity. The one-year old girl was unresponsive and was immediately transported by ambulance to a local trauma center. All attempts to revive the child in the ambulance and at the hospital were unsuccessful and she was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.

Detectives from the Tucson Police Department's Dependent Child Unit responded to continue the investigation, based on physical signs of possible child abuse. In the course of the investigation, detectives determined that a three-year old male sibling also showed physical signs of possible child abuse. That child was transported to a local hospital where he remains in serious condition tonight. Three additional siblings (one male and two female), all under the age of 10, have been placed with CPS for temporary protective custody as the investigation continues.

Detectives continued to investigate this case throughout the day. Late this evening, detectives arrested the biological mother of the children, 23-year old **Kiyana Higgins**, of Tucson. Higgins was booked into the Pima County Adult Detention Center on **two counts of Child Abuse**, class 2 felonies, in connection with the suspected abuse of the one-year old girl and her three-year old brother. An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death of the one-year old. Additional charges against Higgins are possible as the investigation continues.

A booking photo will be released as soon as it is available.

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Page 1 of 1

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